Eng. Hist. Topogr. vol. II. 9

OXONIA
EXPLICATA & ORNATA.

PROPOSALS
FOR
DISENGAGING AND BEAUTIFYING
THE
UNIVERSITY and CITY
OF
OXFORD.

LONDON:
Sold by J. WILKIE, at No. 71, St. Paul's Church-Yard;
and by the Bookſellers in Oxford.
M.DCC.LXXIII.

OXONIA

EXPLICATA ET ORNATA.

THE ſpirit of improvement, which at this time ſo generouſly actuates the Univerſity and City of Oxford to conſult the convenience and magnificence of that place; together with the judicious ſteps already adopted by the Committee to theſe ends, induced the author of this pamphlet to propoſe a few alterations, and, he hopes, improvements.

THE neceſſity of removing the City-gates, opening and paving the ſtreets, is obvious to all; eſpecially when we now experience in part the advantages of them: and the great neglect has been loudly complained of, particularly by ſtran-

gers; whom, in ſuch a caſe, we may allow to be the moſt competent and unprejudiced judges.

NEATNESS and regularity in Streets, Areas, Market-places and Avenues conſtitute the beauty and elegance of every town: and Oxford will enjoy, above all others, the particular advantage of the Colleges and buildings of the Univerſity, ſo juſtly noted and admired for their ſumptuouſneſs and magnificence. At the ſame time the Colleges and public buildings will be diſplayed to an inconceivable advantage by neatneſs and regularity in the Town. — Each will conſpire to the beauty and ornament of the other; and we may hope one day to ſee Oxford the moſt ſplendid ſpot of ground, of it's extent, in the European nations.

OUR foreſathers ſeem to have conſulted petty convenience and monaſtic recluſeneſs, while they neglected that uniformity of Deſign, which is indiſpenſable to magnificence, and that elegance of Approach, which adds half the delight.

ONE error of our anceſtors is happily corrected by the Architecture of the age; the other is what we are now labouring to reform, as much as the confined ſituation of the buildings will admit. And the Univerſity and City of Oxford will do greater ſervice to the cauſe of Elegance and Delight, by opening the ſtreets and extending the proſpects; than

than they would do by adding, at an infinite expenſe, ſome of the moſt ſtately ſtructures to thoſe that remain.

AT preſent, while the mind contemplates a part with pleaſure and admiration, it labours for the horrid incongruity of the whole, and departs diſguſted, and half-ſatisfied at beſt; for what it greatly approves in the Univerſity, is confounded and diminiſhed by what it greatly diſapproves in the Town.

THE buildings in Oxford labour under an inſufferable diſadvantage, on account of being crowded and engaged. They are in general ſo encumbered with deſpicable hovels, or covered with dead walls, that of the four fronts of each not more than one or two can be ſeen at all, and thoſe not to ſatisfaction, by reaſon of their poximity to each other, but more frequently the interruption of the town.

To enjoy a ſatisfactory view of a building, the exterior proſpect ſhould be ſomewhat open and enlarged, and the ſpectator ſituated at a proper diſtance; ſo that the eye may conveniently take in the proportions, and the judgment determine of beauty and deformity from a due ſurvey and eſtimate of the whole. If indeed curioſity invite him to examine a member apart, he muſt then draw near;

near; but a Critic in Architecture, though he may admire or diſapprove the execution of a part, will always form his final deciſion on the merit or demerit of the whole.

IF the Colleges and Public Edifices of this place were drawn apart from each other, and diſperſed through the extent of five hundred acres, ſo that each might enjoy the ſituation a man of genius would approve, OXFORD would be as great an ornament to ENGLAND, as was BABYLON to ASSYRIA, or ancient ROME to EUROPE.

THIS, it may be ſaid, is air-built imagination —an uſeleſs project: it may however ſerve to ſhew the advantage of a free uncircumſcribed acceſs, and be introductory to ſuch propoſals as are both practicable, and may conduce to convenience and beauty.

HOW much an open uninterrupted Survey adds to buildings in point of grandeur, is at once obvious from the inſtances of the Theatre, Printing-houſe and Muſeum viewed at preſent from the ſouth-weſt corner of Baliol, and the front of Queen's ſeen from the eaſt-end of High-ſtreet: theſe happy points of view are owing, the former to the removal of the trees from the front of Baliol, the latter to the demoliſhing the opprobrious Eaſt-gate. Theſe improvements every one muſt ſee and enjoy;

enjoy; and they may encourage us to propoſe others, and to put them in execution.

IT would add much to the ſplendor of Broad-ſtreet if thoſe miſerable cottages between Exeter College and Back-gate were taken down, and two wings extended to the ſtreet joined by an iron gate and paliſade: This Area, we may preſume, would be diſplayed to great advantage on account of it's happy ſituation.

A MONUMENT in memory of the martyrs Cranmer and Ridley, or one to each, erected in this ſtreet, would be a pious work, and give veneration and magnificence to the place. Had the writer had opportunity to apply to an engraver, he would have preſented the Public with his idea of one; which however he may probably undertake on ſome future occaſion.

A VERY conſiderable improvement, we may hope, will take place by opening the Turle, which at preſent is a reproach to the town. This will give us a deſirable view of All-Saints out of Broad-ſtreet; and Trinity-Chapel is ſo fortunately ſituated, that it will be a noble object from that church or any part of Lincoln-lane, which will then have ſome ſhare of elegance from the advantage of being cloſed by thoſe magnificent views. The proſpect of All-Saints' will be ſtill more free

if ſome regulations be made among the houſes that project and over-hang. Were theſe alterations happily effected, this part of the Univerſity, we may preſume, would command no ſmall attention.

It were greatly to be wiſhed that the ſouth end of St. Giles-ſtreet were cleared of thoſe ſorry habitations; and that the pariſhes of St. Mary Magdalen and St. Michael were thrown together. This would give us a more uncircumſcribed proſpect of the weſt-front of Baliol; and a church of modern ſtyle fronting St. Giles' would produce a beautiful effect.

St. Giles', on account of it's ſpacioufneſs, is capable of being made the moſt elegant ſtreet in Oxford. The trees are out of character, and break in upon the eye; they ſhould by all means be removed, a road for carriages thrown ſtraight down the midſt, and on either ſide a foot-path raiſed, covered with gravel and ſecured by poſts and chains: the ſpace between the foot-paths and houſes may be beautifully diſpoſed of in verdure and graſs-plots. Or, as the width will admit, a graſs-plot with ſhrubs, or a piece of water extended down the centre with a road for carriages and foot-path on either ſide, will carry with it an air of elegance.

Out of this Street an Avenue ſhould be opened to Worceſter, to run in a right line to the front of that College: this ſhould be ſpacious and roomy, ſo as to take in the whole front, which will terminate the ſight in a beautiful and agreeable manner, and be a conſiderable addition to the elegance of this part of the town. This College is in a flouriſhing ſtate and pleaſant rural ſituation; but the misfortune is, you have to go through ſo much obſtruction and filthineſs before you arrive at it.

Out of Corn-Market we ſee part of the grand tower of Chriſt-Church:—this would indeed be a moſt majeſtic view, was it not broken by ſome miſ-ſhapen houſes aukwardly projecting on both ſides of the ſtreet.

If at Carfax we could contrive to have a Square, or other Area, it would be extremely to be wiſhed.

The Conduit is a piece of antient finery, and may ſtand for Otho Nicholſon and Antiquity's ſake, though one may part with it, and feel no regret.

High-Street is the glory of Oxford, and ſhould demand the more particular attention of the Commiſſioners and Proprietors at all times to embelliſh, aggrandize and improve every part of it. It is wretch-

wretchedly contracted at the weſt end, to open which ſhould be adopted as an immediate ſtep to the elegance and beauty of the town. The houſes oppoſite St. Mary's are broken and diſcontinued, and project ſhamefully into the ſtreet. The Committee would do well to extend their authority a little freely into Butcher-row, that it may have a new appearance and deſerve another name.

From Carfax we view the ſaid ſtately and magnificent tower, with the greateſt part of the front, of Chriſt-Church. This tower is truly conſpicuous for the beauty and regularity of it's Gothic proportions, and worthy of it's ingenious author. The front is altogether remarkably bold, and has a degree of majeſty rarely to be equalled: yet with all it's dignity it labours under the great misfortune of an unfavourable ſituation; did it riſe above the eye as much as it falls from Carfax, it would be perhaps the boldeſt and moſt princely elevation the kingdom has to ſhew.

Such is the inconceivable advantage of ſituation, that the man, who ſtudies grandeur and magnificence, would not be unwiſe, did he expend as large a ſum in an elegant ſituation as in building and ornamenting his houſe.

This defect in Chriſt-Church admits of no remedy: however, by removing ſome houſes that encroach

encroach on the oppoſite ſide of the ſtreet, and by opening the Lane to Pembroke, we may promiſe ourſelves a tolerable direct view of the tower: beſides, the removal of theſe houſes will give us the whole front from Carfax. When the ſtreet to Friar Bacon's Study is widened, it may admit of a tolerable ſide-view, as in this caſe the ſituation is not bad.

THE ancient court of this College will always command particular attention from it's ſpaciouſneſs and the beautiful diſpoſition of it's terrace, graſs-plots and baſin: but query whether eight lamps raiſed upon obeliſks at the points of the compartments about the baſin would not afford more light than thoſe in the preſent ſituation, and diſtribute it more equally, as it would act collectively as from one body?

WE cannot here omit obſerving, that, though this Quadrangle has a competent ſhare of magnificence; yet the firſt ſtory or underworks look deſolate and gloomy, on account that the windows are ſmall, irregular and few: this inelegance it is perhaps not eaſy to remedy. Thoſe of the ſecond ſtory are indeed more regular and frequent; but the old leaded glaſs, and the motly appearance of the new, are the greateſt eyeſores to the beauty of this place. If they were all, both within the Court and without, glazed like thoſe which light

the Regius Profeſſor's Study, this building would have a double elegance. The writer takes occaſion to hint, that though with the greateſt decorum and advantage modern glaſs may be introduced into Gothic windows; yet the form of the windows themſelves cannot be altered or mutilated without infringing on uniformity often, and on propriety always. And it gives him no ſmall concern to ſee ſome of the windows of this romantic building prepoſterouſly converted into modern ſaſhes.

THOUGH a Quadrangle is no favourite manner, yet the Architecture of Peckwater makes it a delightful edifice. The area of this princely Square is naked and ſervile; — not that we would recommend a graſs-plot.—Suppoſe a low terrace to run under the ſtair-caſes, which would hide the nakedneſs of the cellar-windows; and the reſt of the area to be covered over with freſh gravel.—A piece of ſuperb ſtatuary or group of figures erected in the centre would have a graceful effect. The paths at preſent acroſs the area cutting each other at ſmall irregular angles, preſent the idea of a Stable-court or wing of Offices, rather than the magnificent edifice of Peckwater.

BUT Chriſt-Church with all it's comely faces has it's indecent parts. If Canterbury-Court was taken down, the eaſt end of the Library, with it's Venetian

Venetian window, would have a very ſtriking effect in the approach from Merton. 'Tis great pity the *profound ſolemnity* of this building ſhould be ſcarcely ſeen at all, for it has not been raiſed at a trifling expence. The writer takes liberty to recommend an iron gate and paliſade to cloſe the precincts of this part of the College, as he is an avowed enemy to dead walls.

The moſt beautiful ſpecimen of modern Gothic the Univerſity, or perhaps the kingdom can boaſt, is the grand Quadrangle at All Souls:—This is elegant to a degree; and the illuſtrious Members of this College ſeem to have been as jealous that any ſhould enjoy the ſight of it but themſelves: for the front, which looks towards the Raclivian Library, and might be opened into that ſpacious and magnificent Square, is *carefully* hidden by a deſerted cloiſter. The Cupola indeed is bold and majeſtic, and anſwers the uniformity of the whole; but as the cloiſter ſeems to be uſeleſs, the naked wall on either ſide would be well ſupplied by a gate and paliſade. That the Cupola may not be vacant, a ſtatue of the Founder raiſed under it upon a pedeſtal, would add magnificence to the place, and deſerve the expenſe. Theſe alterations are the more warmly recommended, as they will not only diſplay the College to the view without, but enliven it within.

It would add greatly to the beauty of the Radclivian Square, and this part of Oxford, if the Society of Exeter College could be prevailed on to permit the wall of their Garden to be converted into a dwarf-wall and iron rails: for, as at present nothing is seen but a dead wall, if this alteration should take place, the eye would be agreeably relieved by the verdure of the Garden, and have a view of the Divinity School and Convocation House. As such alterations as this may be made with small inconvenience and expense, we may hope to see them put in execntion.

The west end of the Chapel at New College, with it's storied windows, would command much attention, was it not so *inauspiciously* concealed by an antiquated cloister; if this was away, it would be a magnificent object to the stranger as he passes by the Printing-house and Theatre; and invite him to notice the elegance of structure and scenery in this College, which at present he with difficulty finds out.

The grand Entrance to the Schools is hidden and confined. And the writer has the profaneness to wish that the memorable Dr. Newton, instead of founding Hertford College, had demolished Hart-Hall: we might then, instead of a contracted College, have had the advantage of a spacious Area, three sides of which might have been formed by

by New College, the Codrington Library, and the Schools. Had the Doctor done ſuch an eminent piece of ſervice to the elegance and beauty of Oxford, it had been almoſt too ſmall a return to have erected his ſtatue in the centre, and called it by the name of Newton Square.

THE writer cannot help carrying his rage of pulling down into Queen's and New College Lanes, as they are capable, with ſmall inconvenience or expenſe, of being made one of the moſt ſplendid ſtreets in Oxford. By clearing off the wall from the ſide of New College, that building will form one ſide of a ſpacious ſtreet; and, by demoliſhing a few hovels and dead walls, the eaſt front of All Souls may be diſplayed to view: and if the Society of Queen's College will be ſo obliging as to take down the wall of the Bowling-green, and ſubſtitute a dwarf-wall with iron rails, the weſt front of their Library, one of the moſt airy and elegant buildings in Oxford, will exhibit a beautiful appearance. Thus, with thoſe few alterations, we ſhall have a large open ſtreet, with a Hall, Church and College on one ſide, and a College on the other, together with the views of a ſumptuous Library, and the eaſt front of All Souls. So that if the Univerſity be deſirous of beautifying Oxford, we may ſay, that they have nothing to do, but to remove obſtructions and diſplay their buildings to the public eye.

HERE it may not be impertinent to ſuggeſt, that, however romantic the project may appear, it would add greatly to the ſplendor of Oxford, if the Society of New College could be perſuaded to demoliſh the Mount in their garden, and to take down the trees and City-wall oppoſite the new building. This would open that beautiful front to the Long-Wall and Magdalen Park, and at the ſame time give delight and chearfulneſs to the College. N. B. The Long Wall, by taking down the Corner-Houſe to open it into High-ſtreet, and removing the Hovels between the road and City-Wall, will be truly romantic and rural.

THE Theatre, ſo famous in Europe, is in danger, in it's outward appearance, of diſappointing the ſanguine expectation of every ſtranger. For, in the firſt place, it *ominouſly* turns it's back to the view, and the area before the front is ſo contracted, that it loſes half it's dignity and merit in the ſurvey: this is a fundamental blunder, which can never be repaired. The other ſides are ſordid and dull, owing partly to the blackneſs of the ſtone, but chiefly to the leaded windows. The apertures, particularly well-faſhed windows, give chearfulneſs and delight to every houſe; and to theſe it is principally owing that the Senate-houſe at Cambridge, ſo infinitely inferior to the Theatre in convenience, elegance and conſtruction, has the preeminence in outward view. The writer is

not

not ignorant that ſaſhes have been propoſed, and that the project was laid down again, becauſe they would make the light too glaring, and thereby hurt the paintings. This inconvenience, it may be preſumed, may be eaſily obviated by applying blue glaſs, or, after all, by having recourſe to Venetian blinds: and it is a rule in Architecture to diſpenſe with a ſmall inconvenience, if it greatly conduce to beauty and ornament. The oval windows projecting from the roof, which were added for ornament, on account of the glaſs, make the building appear gloomy.

The Printing-houſe, every one knows, is a heavy pile; but it is not the intent of this paper to point at blemiſhes and defects, which it is impoſſible to remedy or repair: however, when we beſtow a look upon it's appendages, thoſe huge maſſive pillars between the iron rails, we muſt own that they very much aggravate it's native weight.

The writer aſks pardon for the remark; but, however it may be admired in general, he cannot help expreſſing his diſapprobation of the ſituation of the Radclivian Library. Whatever merit this edifice reflects on the Architect, and ſplendor on the Univerſity, it certainly deſtroys the regularity of the Area, and intercepts the view of every building in it. All Souls, St. Mary's, and the Schools, by the intruſion of this *ſplendid obſtacle*, have

have loſt half their magnificence and worth. And at the ſame time that it encroaches upon others, it ſuffers inconceivably in it's own grandeur; for, by being encloſed and walled in on every ſide, the ſurvey is languid and confined. Here is a flaming inſtance, whatever regard is paid to the conſtruction of an edifice, how little is thought due to it's ſituation. This elegant ſtructure deſerves a much larger compaſs, and it is well known that nothing adds ſo much to the beauty of a building as trees, verdure, and the like. Had this Library been placed upon raiſed ground on the north ſide of Broad-ſtreet, oppoſite the Theatre, and all the ſpace between that ſtreet and Trinity-garden devoted to it; the proſpect on all parts would have been ſpacious, bold and uncontracted, and the gardens on the north have made no ſmall addition to it's beauty and ſublimity. An equeſtrian ſtatue would have gracefully ſupplied the place where it now ſtands, as we may pronounce in general that the Areas in a Town ſhould be free, open, and without obſtruction.

Though to have trees before and among buildings in a town is a piece of antiquated taſte, and highly out of character; yet in the caſe of thoſe in the Gravel-walk, as they preſent an agreeable variety to the proſpect out of High-ſtreet, and if taken away would leave an aukward chaſm behind them, it were almoſt ſacrilege to take them down: and

and though they cover part of Magdalen College viewed from before Queen's; yet the ſtranger will conceive a greater idea of the place from ſeeing only part of the weſt window of the Chapel, than from the enormous irregularity of Gothic pinnacles, which he would ſee, were they not covered by the branches.

IT will be found requiſite to the beauty and convenience of this part of Oxford, which demands a particular attention as being the entrance from London, to take away the wall without the trees, and to remove the houſes on the other ſide the way, that the Street may be ſpacious and open. This alteration will have the farther grand effect, that the front of Queen's College will be opened to the proſpect from the end of the bridge.

IF the Society of Magdalen would have their College appear with dignity, by taking down thoſe irregular Offices on the eaſt of the Quadrangle, they may open the new building to the bridge. This will be a magnificent object to thoſe who hourly paſs and repaſs; and the elevation of the bridge will be an addition to the view from this part of the College.

THESE are the alterations and improvements, which the writer at preſent undertakes to propoſe. He no way poſitively inſiſts on the advantages at-

tending them, nor pretends in any caſe to impoſe his opinions; but refers his ſuppoſitions to the conſideration of abler and more experienced judges. He addreſſes himſelf more immediately to the Committee, and others whom it more directly concerns; and will deem it a ſufficient return for the few hours devoted to this trifle, if it ſhall in any meaſure conduce to the convenience and ornament of the Univerſity and City of Oxford.

THESE remarks are conſidered as an abridged, imperfect ſketch of the improvements that may be made in this place. It was not the intent of this Pamphlet to propoſe expenſive ſchemes for the ſake of giving ſcope to genius and invention, or to deſcend minutely to particulars. All that is meant by it is to give the Public a hint, and, if ſuch ſhall be it's good fortune, to put the ingenious upon a diſplay of their taſte, that they may be in ſome meaſure enabled to judge for themſelves in things of this nature and importance.

IT may be expected, that in a publication of this kind, which propoſes future improvements, thoſe at preſent in execution ſhould not paſs entirely unnoticed. The great advantages that will attend them, and which are already ſo conſpicuous, together with the ſpirit with which they are carried on, firſt gave encouragement to this attempt.

IMME-

IMMEDIATE neceſſity called for a Bridge, which will at once add beauty and utility to the town. There is nothing in any place ſo eminent, and which attracts ſo much notice, as a magnificent Church and a well-built Bridge. The latter we may promiſe ourſelves the ſight of in a very few years, and of the former we may not finally deſpair.

THE writer here takes occaſion to intimate how entirely he acquieſces in the adopted plan. It has that noble ſimplicity and proportion which muſt pleaſe every critical obſerver, and that boldneſs of deſign which none can fail to admire. The Devices are well choſen, and as well diſpoſed of; and the ornaments are ſufficiently rich. The chief merit of a bridge conſiſts in ſymmetry and ſtrength; out of which, as a conſequence, ariſes a ſimple majeſtic elegance. Much ornament is ſuperfluous, and indeed out of character; for the elevation is always viewed at ſome diſtance, ſo that the eye does not examine every minute member, but the mind contemplates the diſplay of the whole. Though on each ſide of the centre-arch it may at firſt ſight appear ſomewhat heavy, this probably ariſes from the uncommonneſs of the ſtructure: however, the ingenuity of the Architect is to be admired in making it ſo airy as he has, when we conſider the difficulty of ſeparate ſtreams, which he had to encounter. He might indeed

indeed have filled it with arches from one end to the other; but this would have vaſtly enhanced the expenſe, at the ſame time that one half of them would have been vacant; and after we are familiarized to the preſent deſign, we may judge it equally as grand. The writer privately attempted a plan, but has candour enough to own that Mr. Gwynn's has the ſuperiority in conſtruction, and will be executed at a leſs expenſe.

The Butcher-market, which is at preſent nauſeous and inconvenient, will ſhortly, it may be hoped, inſtead of a nuiſance, be an ornament to the town.

The Obſervatory falls next under notice. And here we cannot help applauding the wiſdom of the Benefactors in appropriating ſo liberal a ſum to ſo uſeful a purpoſe; at the ſame time congratulating the ſpeculative ſtudent on the encouragement, which this kind of knowledge at length meets with at Oxford, and which has ſo much graced her rival Siſter.

The Duke of Marlborough's generoſity and good-will are open to the Univerſity on every occaſion, and were abundantly ſhewn in his munificent preſent to this department. But the writer is ſorry he cannot approve of the ſituation

ſituation of theſe buildings; not that he diſcommends it as diſadvantageous for aſtronomical obſervations — this he cannot do: but, he humbly preſumes, they might have been ſo ſituate, as to enjoy this together with other advantages.

THESE buildings will be conſiderably extended; ſo that the principal front being diſplayed and having the advantage of a tower in the centre would, in a proper ſite, preſent an elegant view. In the preſent ſituation indeed it faces the ſouth, which every one will approve; but the writer cannot ſee from what frequented point of view it can be ſeen with ſatisfaction, or who are to enjoy the pleaſure of the proſpect; unleſs they be the *poor Invalids* in the Rowney-Ward. The Woodſtock and Banbury roads command the morning front, but this will do no credit to the place.

THE ſituation could not well have been more inconvenient for attending the Philoſophical Lectures; for though Worceſter may approve, Magdalen, Queen's, Univerſity and Merton, will be of the writer's opinion.

THE ſtructure will be undoubtedly calculated for the intended purpoſes; but the writer aſks pardon if he is a little cenſorious, as he cannot at all be reconciled to the paltry Offices at the North-

eaſt angle; as they will be ſo little of a piece with, and ſo far inferior to, the reſt.—Here muſt we be forced not to diſapprove, but to condemn. Uniformity and propriety are two indiſpenſable requiſites of a good houſe:—here is a defect in both.—So great a deviation from good Architecture is no where to be found. We often indeed ſee ſomething of ſimilar form tacked to the manſion of a farmer, which has been the contrivance of the good woman of the houſe, for ſome neceſſary convenience or other—to preſs her cheeſe,—or waſh her diſhes: thus hath the female oeconomiſt, by repeated ſolicitations, ſqueezed out of her cloſe-fiſted huſband a few pounds or fifty ſhillings to fit up thoſe uſeful apartments; which however ſhe hath taken care to hide on ſome unſeen part of her habitation. If it was intended to imitate the *frugality* of this female architect, ſome regard ſhould have been paid to her *decency* too.

"But when this part is covered with trees, who "will be the wiſer?"—Who cannot but admire the cunning of the contrivance?—This is a ſubterfuge indeed—as if trees would hide nothing but theſe inferior Offices.—Could any one imagine that the Univerſity of Oxford and the ever memorable Dr. Radcliffe intended that their buildings ſhould be erected to be concealed?

THIS is not meant by the writer as a cenſure on the Architect; as he is perſuaded this part of the building could not be conducted by his direction or conſent. For is it poſſible that a man, ſo able in Architecture as he has diſtinguiſhed himſelf in a part of this Univerſity, ſhould ſo far deviate from it's laws?

THE Dwelling-houſe with it's Offices will be a reproach to the intended elegance and ſublimity of theſe buildings; for as it muſt be always conſidered as a part, it will be in danger of infringing the rules of uniformity; as, however convenient it may be, it is not only a plain, but a heavy ſluggiſh heap. After the great expenſe of emblems and ornament, and the ſanguine expectation of the Univerſity that their Obſervatory will reflect grandeur and magnificence on Oxford, it were pity it ſhould turn out an abſurdity at laſt. It may be here fitly aſked, whether it may not be more adviſable to execute the original plan, which, though plain, has, I apprehend, the conveniences required, than to lay out a larger ſum in embelliſhment? and when we conſider the ſituation, the difficulty and danger of breaking in upon a plan, part of which is already executed; together with the ſtone, which is liable to decay and grow dim; to which we may add the above conſideration: by a man who has not got more money than he knows how to diſpoſe of, the queſtion, we may preſume,

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will be anſwered in the affirmative. But let it not be concluded that the writer is an enemy to ornamental architecture, though he diſapproves of it in in theſe circumſtances.

THE writer takes leave to cloſe theſe remarks by preferring a conſideration to the Univerſity and her Benefactors.

NOTHING is ſo deſerving their piety and regard, or ſo much wanted to aggrandize and complete the magnificence of Oxford, as an Univerſity Church: for beſides that St. Mary's is a Pariſh-church, it is not equal to ſo venerable and auguſt an aſſembly, as that of this Univerſity; and is inferior to their other buildings.

TO deſign a ſtructure ſuitable to this ſolemn purpoſe, may perhaps be an eaſier taſk than to appoint a ſituation worthy of it: this however needs not be finally diſpaired of.

OF all the ſtyles of Templar edifices that either the refined taſte of the preſent age can boaſt or Antiquity ſupply, thoſe of the Grecian and afterwards Roman Temples are indiſputably the firſt. They have that grand ſimplicity of deſign, and at the ſame time that magnificent ſumptuouſneſs and delicacy of execution, which inſpire an uncommon ſublimity of ſoul; and which were never combined

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but in themſelves.—How admirably are they adapted to awful ſolemnity! However modern Architects have mixed and compounded the Orders, and deviated from theſe ancient models for the ſake of variety, producing originals, or ſatisfying a capricious humour; it has always been obſerved, that the more they have departed from theſe ſtandards, the farther they have fallen from the perfection of Architecture.

THE Univerſity of Oxford, we may preſume, will have no objections to that manner of building, which is purely claſſical, and has ſtood the teſt, and experienced the approbation of the Learned of every age.—A Periſtyle or Amphiproſtyle of the Ancients, crowned with magnificent pediments, baſſo relievo, and ſurmounted with ſtatues, would add grandeur to the place, and be worthy of it's illuſtrious inhabitants.

FINIS.